TIME TO ALPHABETIZE THOSE DVDS AND LASERDISCS, ITS.....

CULTURE CRINGE

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SPECIAL EDITION / SPECIAL EDITION / SPECIAL EDITION / SPECIAL EDITION / SPECIAL

THE MOVIE ISSUE

(INSERT WITTY OPENING REMARK HERE)

I am definitely not any sort of movie fanatic or expert, or critic or whatev. I just have this thing where when a movie strikes me the right way (which is rare) it becomes a part of my rotation. I tend to rewatch movies that I like over and over and there are many that I watch at least once a year. Actually - have you seen that thing getting passed around on instagram and stuff that claims that people who rewatch the same movies over and over tend to have a higher level of intelligence? **HA** I don't know about that. I'm sure we all know that's just clickbait because most everyone has films that they watch over and over....or at least one. **SO** the purpose of this ~~SPECAIL~~ SPECIAL EDITION zine is to provide an exercise for me to pay tribute to the movies that have had a major impact on me in any way...sounds fun doesn't it. I mean for real this is not any sort of groundbreaking content - but it will serve as a physical document that if anyone hangs on to one of these zines and it's rediscovered years down the line someone could read it and say HEY, here are some movies that some dude really liked. Maybe they'd check one of them out, maybe not. Maybe you might check one out. THAT BEING SAID: I'm sure you might be confused at times by some of my choices, and that's ok, because I'm sure I'd be confused by some of yours. **That's what makes us all human right?** Uniqueness. I'm not going to like, review or even really **TALK** about the movies themselves, I'm just gonna write about my feelings on them or any associated memories around them. I hope that's cool. If it's not lemme know, although this will already be printed and done so I don't know what we will be able to do at that point

- THERE WILL NOT BE ANY HARD HITTING JOURNALISM HERE -

These won't be in any sort of order, like this isn't a countdown or a top 10 list or anything like that. I'm just going to go stream of consciousness here and rattle them off. It's better that way. I honestly don't know what my absolute FAVE movie of all time is if someone asked me. Or maybe I do? That's why I'm going to kick things off with.....

ED WOOD (1994, TIM BURTON)

I remember the first time I saw **ED WOOD** pretty vividly. Me and my cousin went to the local rental store and I remember not wanting to rent it at first.....I mean, it's in black and white?? Well that didn't seem like a ton of fun for a 17 year old in 1995. We rented it anyways, went in totally blind. Had no idea what it was about, just knew it was a Burton film. We went down to my cousin's "party basement" where we had a tv and vcr and a big ole couch and put it in. I was pretty drawn in right from the very beginning....the opening credits. Now **THAT'S** some cool opening credits! I was like.....WHAT IS THIS?? I'll be totally honest, I didn't know anything at all about the real life Ed Wood at that time. For all I knew, this movie was a *total work of fiction*. Once I realized (after watching it) that it was totally based on fact I became obsessed with all of it. All of the people who appeared in Ed Wood's movies, the actors, the characters, and Ed himself. I started going out and finding VHS copies of the movies he made pretty much immediately after seeing it. I remember finding **Plan 9 From Outer Space** at **Media Play** in **Rivergate**. I was unbelievably excited to have it and rushed home to watch it - it BLEW MY MIND seeing the scenes that Tim Burton recreated in his movie. All the actors and characters I saw portrayed in Burton's film....there they were in REAL LIFE! I would say that the film **Ed Wood** totally changed me as a person because it opened up that whole world of weird, strange Hollywood to me. I loved it. This is definitely one of those films I watch yearly, and every time I watch, I catch a little something new. If you haven't seen it and especially if you don't know Ed Wood's story - **please** do yourself a favor and check it out!

GHOST WORLD (2001, TERRY ZWIGOFF)

I can't remember if I saw GHOST WORLD in the theater or not. I don't THINK I did. I do know that it was one of those movies that I bought pretty immediately after it was released so I could watch it over and over and over again. I didn't make the connection that the director, Terry Zwigoff, was also the director of that documentary CRUMB. Then stuff started making a little more sense - a lot of the easter eggs and inside jokes all revealed themselves. I was a big fan of the MTV show DARIA when I was in college - it seemed like it was always on tv so therefore it was always on in my dorm room / apartment / etc. GHOST WORLD seemed like a live action DARIA to me, but way funnier of course. I related a lot to Thora Birch's character Enid...I think a lot of us did. I was fascinated by Seymour's cool room with all the vintage stuff on the walls. I've had people tell me that my "room" in my house now reminds them of Seymour's room. Mission accomplished! I wasn't a comic book or graphic novel fan back in the 90s, so I had no idea that the movie was based on Daniel Clowe's work at the time. So it was cool getting those after the fact and seeing some of the key moments from the movie in graphic novel form. The ending is super open to interpretation and I have my own theory, and it's dark. I've come to learn via reddit that a lot of people share the dark ending theory. Who would've thunk it!! OH, one more thing. Back in the Myspace days, I started the Blueshammer Myspace page. It got fairly popular. If you don't get the joke, please watch the movie!

AMERICAN GRAFFITI (1973, GEORGE LUCAS)

As a teenager **American Graffiti** was one of those movies that was always on cable - if I remember correctly it was on **TBS** a lot. I found myself watching it every time I'd come across it, but then I kinda forgot about it until my early 20s. When I was around OH I DUNNO 23 or 24 I went through the obligatory 50's phase - I'm not sure if that's a thing anymore. I even greased my hair up for a while believe it or not and wore tucked in 50s style shirts and shit. Sorta like cosplay. Actually a **LOT** like cosplay. During that time I listened to a lot of oldies obviously. I had this apartment where I painted the walls cherry red and decorated it all 50s and had this cool old 1965 television that worked - I hooked up a VCR to it (that was hidden out of sight cos ya know, that would kill the vibe) and would watch old movies on it. One of those movies was, you guessed it, **American Graffiti**. It became a comfort movie that I'd just put on especially on Friday or Saturday nights before going out. I love movies that take place during one night where wild things happen and people learn life lessons - **Dazed and Confused** is just like that as well. Actually that movie pretty much used **American Graffiti** as a blueprint. Starts in the afternoon, ends with the sun coming up, and everyone is suddenly more mature. I got to meet **Mackenzie Phillips** (who played Carol) last year and got her to sign my **American Graffiti** soundtrack LP. It was a big moment for me, I'm sure I didn't tell her anything she hadn't heard before but it was good to tell someone who was in the film how important it was to me and how it played a part in my life. She appreciated it and was very sweet. She also has a beautiful signature. I still to this day put this movie on as a comfort blanket when I'm feeling a certain way. I don't have to sit and watch it, I'm fine with just catching glimpses of it - but I love having it there for if I decide to sit a spell.

ADVENTURELAND (2009, GREG MOTTOLA)

I love a good summertime based coming-of-age movie, especially when they're set in an amusement park. ADVENTURELAND appealed to me because as a teenager...get this... I actually worked in an amusement park for a summer. Opryland. Yep, I helped operate the roller coaster called CHAOS. I was the guy during the summer of '95 who would make sure your safety restraint was fully locked. Funny thing - I never ran across one the wasn't locked, and I don't think I was ever told what to do if that happened. Was there a panic button that would stop the ride from taking off? Would everyone have to get off the coaster and would we have had to call in maintenance? I truly don't know, but I'm glad I didn't have to find out. One cool thing about that summer for me was that there was a Dippin' Dots kiosk at the exit of CHAOS, and we would go on our breaks and get whatever we wanted for free. It was rad. Oh, back to the movie. ADVENTURELAND is such a unique setting for a film - the late 80s at an amusement park. It's pretty damn funny at times and has such a great cast, and makes great use of the Falco song Amadeus. I usually watch this one on my birthday every year. And then, I go through a brief but necessary phase of listening to The Replacements. Lisa P is back!

FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH (1982, AMY HECKERLING)

This was another movie that seemed to be on TV a lot when I was a teenager. **I see a pattern here**. This one tended to be on late nights or especially on Friday nights - it was a party movie! Here's something pretty fascinating about this film. Up until I was in my mid-20s, I had never seen the full unedited version. Yep, crazy isn't it. Well cmon, since it was always on TV, why would I have rented it?? From what I remember it wasn't shown a lot on the "movie" channels back then, always just basic cable. SO imagine me, the first time seeing it unedited and all of that - I couldn't believe it! I have to give it to whoever edited it for TV, they did a great job. Anyways. This movie has so many good one liners. For years, anytime someone broke something I would say (in my best **Spicoli** voice) "I can fix it." I stopped doing that around 2010, I need to bring it back I guess. The movie has a pretty good soundtrack too. The opening scene with **We Got the Beat** is one of my favorite opening scenes of all time. That warm glow of the 80s shopping mall combined with the **Go-Go's** is pure bliss. Then the end credits song.....**Goodbye Goodbye** by **Oingo Boingo**. PERFECTION. Likewise, it's my fave end credits sequence of all time. For some reason it makes me tear up, I can't explain it. Back in the early 2000s I went to see a show at **Starwood** and **Jackson Browne** was the opening act. I didn't really care until he started playing.....and kicked into **Somebody's Baby** early on. Holy shit - what a great song, and at that moment at that show I said to myself....**Fast Times** is one of my favorite movies ever.

THE VIRGIN SUICIDES (1999, SOFIA COPPOLA)

Even with the foreboding title, no one in my friend group was quite prepared for how dark this film got. It's a really "pretty" film though, it looks so good and it captures the mid-70s in a way I had never seen before. It's so warm looking, has a glow to it. I'm convinced that during the mid-70s everything just LOOKED like that. Everything had a glow. I have a theory that certain times in the past actually had a look to them - not in fashion or design, the air and all matter LOOKED different. That's why it's so hard to make things look exactly as they were in film, but sometimes it happens. This is a case where they totally succeeded. For example: **That 70s Show** - the 70s didn't look like that. The 70s looked like **The Virgin Suicides**. Ok now that I have that out of the way, let's talk about the soundtrack. The band **Air** did the score to the movie and completely 100% knocked it out of the park. I absolutely love the score to the movie and I listen to it pretty often. And honestly, I don't even really listen to anything else Air ever did. I guess I should. The soundtrack itself is a who's who of 1970s AM GOLD stuff. **Todd Rundgren's Hello It's Me** was basically a character in the film, as was **ELO's Strange Magic.** I have a soft spot for 70s soft rock, it reminds me of those late night TV commercials where they were selling compilations called things like "**Easy Goin' 70s**" or "**70s Moods.**" I hate the summer time, but if I'm outside in the yard and I put on some easy going 70s stuff, it makes it alright. I need to do that more often. Maybe if I have some yard work that needs to be done, that's the ticket to completion. I kinda actually like bands like **Bread, Supertramp, Seals and Crofts**, etc...I just don't actively listen to them. OH ONE MORE THING. The phone scene in this movie where they are calling each other and playing music over the phone is perfection. That was a real thing even in the 80s. I'd do that all the time with friends. I had this one girlfriend in middle school and if we got into an argument or something while talking, one of us would start playing "**I Adore Mi Amor**" by **Color Me Badd**. It would solve everything.

HOT ROD (2007, AKIVA SCHAFFER)

I wasn't expecting much out of **Hot Rod** the first time I watched it. I probably thought I was going to make it 1/4 of the way through and turn it off. OH, was I wrong. I've heard some people say that 2007 was the last great year of comedies - mainly due to the fact that **Hot Rod** and **Superbad** both came out. I might tend to agree on that one. I WISH a movie would come out nowadays that actually made me laugh. I can't think of the last modern day movie that made me legit laugh and want to rewatch it. *Now to be fair*, good comedy definitely still exists...just maybe not in movie form. There are some really REALLY funny shows (**Tires** comes to mind), and I can doom scroll on instagram reels and laugh my ass off anytime. But see - I was raised during the golden age of comedy movies: the 1980s. I got taken to the drive-in to see ALL of the **Police Academy** movies as well as movies like **Problem Child**, **Uncle Buck**, **Major League**, **Summer Rental**.....*yeah*. So I feel like I have a standard, a benchmark. Well **Hot Rod** met it, damn it went *beyond* it. It's one of those films I laugh at EVERY time I put it on - and I wonder how they made it through takes when filming it without at least someone cracking up. And what a great premise - a "stunt man" who basically gets shit on but ends up a hero of sorts with his rag-tag crew of misfit friends. Also, it was my introduction to **Danny McBride**, who nearly steals the show. AND, he's gone on to pretty much play the exact same character over and over and it doesn't get old. I guess he would qualify as a character actor? Maybe. He definitely has his type. Hilarious, though.

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (1974, TOBE HOOPER)

When I was probably around 10 years old I went to a big sleepover - one of my friends lived on a farm in the middle of NOWHERE and he had a few of us out on a summer friday night. His mom took us to the grocery store to get snacks, then to the video store to rent movies. Everyone got to pick out a movie - so I picked out Texas Chainsaw Massacre cos I had been wanting to see it! Yep, 10 year old me picked that one out. His mom rented it, no questions asked. That night we went out on the farm and did some crazy stuff, ran around on other people's property I'm sure, ran through a creepy graveyard, found a bunch of bones in a barn....you know, the normal southern sleepover kind of stuff. That night, we saved my movie pick for last. We watched it on his big ole boxy television in his un-airconditioned room. We shit our pants. It scared the absolute hell out of all of us - I had NEVER seen (or heard) anything like that. Yes, I was too young to watch it - we all were. Especially in that setting. I mean, for real.....if I had watched it during the day in an apartment in a big city, maybe. But in a creepy old farmhouse in the middle of nowhere in the middle of the night?? Damn. We tried to go to sleep, but then someone started racing a dirtbike up and down his road....at like, 2 am. We (of course) thought that was a chainsaw. I had never felt my heart beat that fast before, I thought we were goners. I guess we eventually all fell asleep and the next day we each tried to pretend that we weren't scared. Fast forward 10-15 years later, and I found myself using Texas Chainsaw as my litmus test for when I hung out with a new person. Oh, you wanna hang out with me? Have you seen Texas Chainsaw Massacre? The ORIGINAL? Let's watch it. I would judge people by their reaction, and I still do.

SINGLES (1992, CAMERON CROWE)

I didn't see **Singles** until probably 1993. We were all caught in the clutches of grunge, it was something new and exciting and every week it seemed like I had a new favorite band. Or maybe I just alternated between **Pearl Jam**, **Nirvana**, and **Soundgarden**. We raided our dads and uncles closets for old flannel shirts, beanies, military jackets, all that stuff. I was the perfect age to be caught up in that fashion trent. My first band formed in 1993 and was called **The Dysfunctional Turds**. We covered **Alice In Chains** and **Ugly Kid Joe** songs, and for some reason we also covered **Van Halen's Right Now**. Guess who played the piano part on that one? Yours truly. OK OK so **Singles** was the first movie that me and my friends saw that focused on the grunge thing, more importantly Seattle. Damn we thought that was cool. We would have get togethers and watch **Singles** all the time, then listen to the soundtrack by the bonfire and dance / thrash around like they do in that **Temple Of The Dog Hunger Strike** music video. I love all the cameos in the movie, especially all the bands that show up in it. That movie felt like a cultural moment - it gave a big screen face to what we were all WAY into. Every time I watch it these days I really get super damn nostalgic. I can't really think of any other way to really say it. It makes me want to listen to **Mudhoney** and **Pearl Jam** and **Smashing Pumpkins**. I wish someone would make a movie RIGHT NOW that takes place in a thriving music scene in a particular city and have the bands themselves in it. But ya know, not a movie about the scene, just it as a setting and to help set the vibe. I feel like people today would really, really dig that. If there is a new-ish movie out there like that, lemme know!

MAGNOLIA (1999, PT ANDERSON)

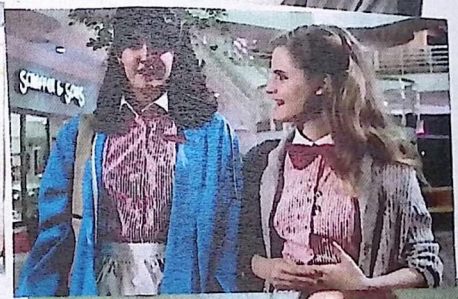
So last month I made a special zine all about AIMEE MANN and her impact on me, but I only made copies to hand out at her show I went to in June. I went to a pre-show soundcheck thing and handed them out to everyone there - it was super dorky and I was way out of my comfort zone, but dammit I did it. People seemed to really like them! It was a cool exercise. It was a really fun zine to make and I didn't put any out around town because I didn't think anyone would have interest, but if you do it's available online at www.culturecringe.org. WHY AM I SAYING THIS? Well, the soundtrack to Magnolia is pretty much all Aimee Mann, and director Paul Thomas Anderson openly said that he wrote the screenplay after hearing her most recent album, BACHELOR NO 2. He used the opening line to her song DEATHLY as the main theme of the film: "Now that I've met you, would you object to never seeing each other again?" Fitting. Magnolia is a incredibly tense and depressing film, but I love it. And yes, as weird as it sounds it was a comfort film for me to put on in the early 2000s. The scene where all of the characters in the film take turns singing lines from Aimee's song WISE UP is one of the saddest things I've ever seen and it's tough to get through even in this day. When I saw Aimee last month, she came out for soundcheck and opened with that song. It wrecked a lot of people that were there. I just sat back and looked around the room at everyone (around 30 people), wondering what their story was. I could see how it was affecting most everyone. One thing I learned from Magnolia is that you never know anyone's life situation, or what they're going through. Some people are good at hiding it while others are not.

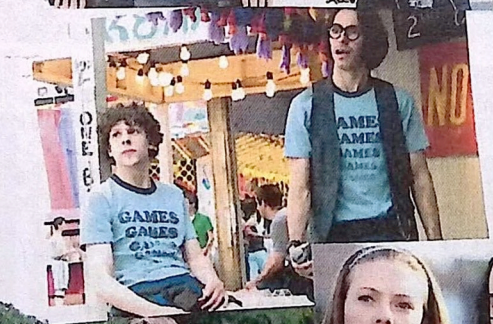
THE CRAFT (1996, ANDREW FLEMING)

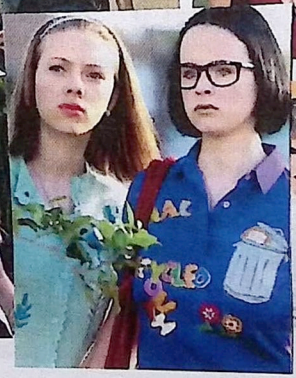
OK hear me out here. I understand that **The Craft** isn't necessarily a "good" movie....it's a supernatural teen horror film of sorts BUT you gotta understand the cultural impact it had on us. For a ton of people in my generation, it almost single handedly opened up the world of modern witchcraft and magic...or at least the style associated with it. (insert obligatory "haha"). But for real, there was a big movement in the mid90s with alternative spiritual stuff, it was suddenly everywhere. I remember that cool store behind the **Exit / In** in Nashville that had all that stuff in it. I think it was the first store I had ever been in like that. I liked it! So yeah, **The Craft** just reminds me of that era in a good way - and I do honestly enjoy it. I like how **Fairuza Balk** pretty much never came down from the high of playing **Nancy**. And even **Rachel True**, who played **Rochelle**, is way into Tarot and stuff today. I think she just put out a book about it. I DID see **The Craft** in the theater. It was awesome. I still remember that opening scene with the clouds and how cool it looked when the logo appeared. I think I was high, so that added to it. The soundtrack to **The Craft** was a big one for me, with the cool **Juliana Hatfield** song, **Letters to Cleo's** great cover of a **Cars** song, **Love Spit Love's** cover of **How Soon is Now**, **Tripping Daisy**, **Matthew Sweet**, **Heather Nova**, ALL OF IT. I wore that soundtrack all the way out. Good god the 90s were rad. Do movies today even have soundtracks anymore? Wait strike that - some do. **I Saw The TV Glow** has a great soundtrack. That movie had a great 90s spirit about it. Anyways, I unapologetically love **The Craft**. There I said it.

THE AMAZING, SENSATIONAL

IMAGE GALLERY







THX for reading, as always.